

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for enabling limited time trial use products for additional preselected use beyond the trial use time, comprising:

a power hand-held personal care appliance (10), which has been pre-enabled for a limited time free initial trial use, permitting use of the personal care appliance without payment or obligation of payment for the time of trial use; and

an enabling device (12, 14), provided to the user following a one-time payment provided at the end of the limited time trial use, to enable the appliance for permanent subsequent use without expiration and without further compensation.

2. (previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the permanent use includes all of the functions of a conventional product.

3. (original) A system of claim 2, wherein the appliance is a power toothbrush.

4. (original) A system of claim 2, wherein the enabling device is an element (17) which is positionable by the user permanently within the power appliance, the positioning of the device within the appliance resulting in said enabling of the power appliance.

5. (original) A system of claim 2, wherein the enabling device is an element which is inserted temporarily into the device and then removed and wherein the power appliance includes a circuit which recognizes a code on the inserted element and enables the appliance for long-term use.

6. (previously presented) A system of claim 3, wherein the power toothbrush is brought into proximity to the enabling device, the power toothbrush and enabling device both having communication elements therein for communication therebetween to enable additional use of the power appliance.

7. (original) A system of claim 6, wherein the power toothbrush nestles into the enabling device.

8. (original) A system of claim 6, wherein the communication is optical.

9. (original) A system of claim 6, wherein the communication is radio frequency (RF).

10. (original) A system of claim 6, wherein the communication is magnetic.

11. (original) A system of claim 6, wherein the communication is infrared.

12. (original) A system of claim 2, wherein the enabling device is arranged to enable only one power appliance.

13. (original) A system of claim 2, wherein the enabling device is capable of only one enabling operation.

14. (currently amended) A system for enabling a limited time trial use product for additional preselected use beyond the trial use time, comprising:

a power hand-held personal care appliance (22) which has been pre-enabled for a limited time free initial trial use, permitting use of the personal care appliance without payment or obligation of payment for the time of trial use; and

a communication element (20) associated with the power appliance for receiving an enabling message from an external source (26) over a communication line (24) and wherein the appliance includes a circuit (23) enabling the appliance for permanent use without expiration in response to the communication element receiving an enabling message following a one-time payment provided at the end of the limited time trial use, without further compensation.

15. (previously presented) A system of claim 14, wherein the permanent use

includes all of the functions of a conventional product.

16. (original) A system of claim 15, wherein the communication line is a telephone line.

17. (original) A system of claim 15, wherein the power appliance is a power toothbrush.

18. (original) A system of claim 15, wherein the communication line is an internet connection.

19. (original) A system of claim 15, wherein the communication element is located in a charger portion of a power appliance.

20. (currently amended) A system for enabling limited time trial use products for long-term use beyond the trial use time, comprising:

a power hand-held personal care appliance which has been pre-enabled for limited time free initial trial use but otherwise has a full operational capability of a conventional version thereof, permitting use of the personal care appliance without payment or obligation of payment for the time of trial use, wherein the power appliance includes a portion thereof which enables the device for permanent use without expiration upon a selected one of 1) actuation and 2) deactuation thereof, following a one-time payment provided at the end of the limited time trial use, without further compensation.

21. (original) A system of claim 20, wherein the power appliance is a power toothbrush.

22. (currently amended) A system for enabling limited time trial use of products for long-term use, beyond the trial use time, comprising:

a power hand-held personal care appliance which has been pre-enabled for limited

time free initial trial use, permitting use of the personal care appliance without payment or obligation of payment for the time of trial use, the power appliance including an on/off switch for the personal care appliance operable by a user in particular patterns, and wherein the power appliance includes a recognition circuit for recognizing a preselected pattern of operation of the on/off switch, the power appliance being enabled for permanent use without expiration following recognition of the selected pattern and following a one-time payment or authorization therefor provided at the end of the limited time trial use, without further compensation.

23. (original) A system of claim 22, wherein the power appliance is a power toothbrush.

24. (previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the enabling device is provided to the user following a one-time payment or authorization.